

Workingmen's Houses,
Ann Morris House
358 Southern Avenue
Dubuque
Dubuque County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-159-BK

HABS
IOWA,
31-DUBU,
14-BK-

**PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver Colorado 80225

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Site Location: 358 Southern Avenue
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 1.1
Cadastral grid : SW1/4 NE1/4 S36 T89N R2E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'
UTM coordinates: 15.691780.4705775
Lot dimensions : 35'x 20': .02 acre
Lot description: East 35' of Lot 1 of Lot 5
of O'Connor's Subdivision

Present Owner: Iowa Department of Transportation
Present Usage: vacant
Present Condition : fair

Overall Dimensions: 1-1/2 story main block: 16'x 38'; front porch 16'x 4';
1-story rear addition: 16'x 12'.

Orientation : northwest

Architectural Plan type : 1-1/2 story rectangle with rear addition.

Description : Foundation: coursed limestone perimeter walls.
Structure : wood frame
Ext. walls: moderately exposed beveled wood siding, painted
Roofs : front-gabled, moderately pitched; 3-tab asphalt
shingles on main block; asphalt roll roofing on
shed roof of rear addition.

Chimneys : two corbeled brick interior chimneys, centered.
Dormers : none
Windows : wood 1/1 double hung sash; architraves around
front windows, consisting of hood molds with a
dentil course and decorative carving at ends;
plain casings with hood molds and slip sills on
other windows; awning windows on rear addition.

Openings : primary entrance offset on front under the
porch; (replacement) wood slab door with three
stepped small windows with a decorative hood
like those of the front windows; plain door on
the rear of rear addition.

Porches : full-width, open front porch; shallowly pitched
hipped roof supported by 3 turned wood columns;
unusual balustrade pattern includes vertical
and staggered horizontal rails; diagonal wood
latticework surrounds porch crawl space.

Details : boxed cornices; bulkhead on northeast wall;
concrete steps with lead pipe railing lead up
to property; picket fence, retaining wall.

Construction Date : 1874

Architecture style: Gable ended box

Physical History : Teamster Morty D'Connor subdivided a portion of Mineral Lot 37 along Southern Avenue into residential lots in March 1868. A month later Ann Morris purchased Lot 5 from O'Connor for \$350. City directory evidence indicates that she built this two-story house and moved here from another residence on Dodge Street in 1874. A widow and a saloon worker, Morris lived in the house until selling it in 1879 to laborer Thomas Murray and his wife Ann. The Murrays in turn sold the property to N.J. Walker, who quit claimed it a year later to Charles P. Dillon. A blacksmith with the Iowa Iron Works and later a machinist for the Adams Company, Dillon lived here with his wife Bertha until the mid-1920s. The property remained in the Dillon family until the late 1960s. Over its extended occupation, the house has undergone few exterior alterations and retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

Significance: Similar in scale, configuration and materials to the other workingmen's houses built along Southern Avenue in the 1870s and 1880s, the Ann Morris House is visually distinguished by its steep entry from the sidewalk. It is noteworthy for its excellent state of preservation. Historically, the house is typically associated with Dubuque's early proletariat.

References: Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-32-3-18.
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental
Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."
Land Title Abstract (located at Iowa Department of
Transportation, Ames Iowa).

Compiler: Clayton B. Fraser, Fraserdesign, Loveland Colorado.
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